



GRANBY

Hampshire County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Granby is a rural suburban town on the outskirts of the Holyoke metropolitan area. Settled around 1727, the town is dominated in the north by the Holyoke range of hills and has a rugged terrain which hampered agricultural development as the limited water resources hampered industrial development. However, despite these obstacles, settlers developed farms and some limited industries which made up the town's economic foundation. They grew grains, turnips, pumpkins and hops, and small distilleries were open by 1812 using the surplus grain produced. Dairy farming, making buttons and palm leaf hats followed these in economic importance in the 19th century.

However, by 1875, local industry was gone and agriculture, primarily dairy farming, was the staple in Granby. The town still retains the huge, well-known milk bottle which houses a dairy bar.

Granby retains its original meeting house green and the period character that this section of town gives it as well as a fine neoclassical library and a good stock of Greek revival houses.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

West central Massachusetts, bordered by Amherst on the north, Belchertown on the east, Ludlow and Chicopee on the south, and South Hadley on the west. Granby is about 15 miles north of Springfield, 46 miles west of Worcester, 85 miles west of Boston, and 152 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 28.07 sq. miles

Land Area: 27.87 sq. miles

Population: 5,565

Density: 200 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Amherst Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.9°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.5"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Mt. Holyoke, Belchertown, Springfield North, Ludlow

Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 467-7177

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1768

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	3,333		
Democrats	926	27.8	%
Republicans	556	16.7	%
Other parties	1	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,850	55.5	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Granby town, Hampshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	6,132	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	6,132	100.0
Male.....	3,003	49.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	74	1.2
Female.....	3,129	51.0	Mexican.....	7	0.1
Under 5 years.....	345	5.6	Puerto Rican.....	37	0.6
5 to 9 years.....	468	7.6	Cuban.....	8	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	444	7.2	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	22	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	436	7.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	6,058	98.8
20 to 24 years.....	300	4.9	White alone.....	5,908	96.3
25 to 34 years.....	730	11.9	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,147	18.7	Total population.....	6,132	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	993	16.2	In households.....	6,085	99.2
55 to 59 years.....	316	5.2	Householder.....	2,247	36.6
60 to 64 years.....	237	3.9	Spouse.....	1,412	23.0
65 to 74 years.....	430	7.0	Child.....	1,944	31.7
75 to 84 years.....	223	3.6	Own child under 18 years.....	1,441	23.5
85 years and over.....	63	1.0	Other relatives.....	217	3.5
Median age (years).....	38.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	81	1.3
18 years and over.....	4,568	74.5	Nonrelatives.....	265	4.3
Male.....	2,217	36.2	Unmarried partner.....	142	2.3
Female.....	2,351	38.3	In group quarters.....	47	0.8
21 years and over.....	4,967	81.2	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	860	14.0	Noninstitutionalized population.....	47	0.8
65 years and over.....	716	11.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	326	5.3	Total households.....	2,247	100.0
Female.....	390	6.4	Family households (families).....	1,662	74.0
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	776	34.5
One race.....	6,065	98.9	Married-couple family.....	1,412	62.8
White.....	5,934	96.8	With own children under 18 years.....	642	28.6
Black or African American.....	31	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	184	8.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	8	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	100	4.5
Asian.....	59	1.0	Nonfamily households.....	585	26.0
Asian Indian.....	5	0.1	Householder living alone.....	452	20.1
Chinese.....	2	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	178	7.9
Filipino.....	5	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	834	37.1
Japanese.....	4	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	514	22.9
Korean.....	13	0.2	Average household size.....	2.71	(X)
Vietnamese.....	5	0.1	Average family size.....	3.15	(X)
Other Asian ¹	25	0.4	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	2,295	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,247	97.9
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	48	2.1
Samoan.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	7	0.3
Some other race.....	32	0.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.2	(X)
Two or more races.....	67	1.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.2	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	2,247	100.0
White.....	5,997	97.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,901	84.6
Black or African American.....	51	0.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	346	15.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	30	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.80	(X)
Asian.....	76	1.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.19	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	5	0.1			
Some other race.....	47	0.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	56
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Granby is located in the Pioneer Valley Region, known as the crossroads of New England because of its strategic position along the Connecticut River and its excellent transportation facilities. The Massachusetts Turnpike connects the region to Boston and to Albany, New York. Interstate 91 provides direct access to Hartford, Connecticut, and to Brattleboro and points north in Vermont.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 116 and U.S. Route 202, which links Granby to Holyoke and Belchertown and points north.

Rail

Amtrak's passenger rail service between Montreal and Washington, D.C. is accessible in neighboring Amherst. There is no passenger or freight rail service in Granby, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Granby is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA), which provides fixed route service between Holyoke, South Hadley, and Granby. The PVRTA also offers paratransit services to the elderly and disabled through the Council on Aging.

Other

Westover Metropolitan Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Chicopee, has 2 asphalt and concrete runways 7,050' and 11,600' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.